

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 23-30 have been withdrawn. Claims 11-22 and 31-104 have been cancelled. Claims 105-161 were added by amended on Feb. 3, 2003. Claims 105-161 remain pending in this application. Claims 124-150 were allowed and claims 105-123 and 151-161 were rejected in the Final Office Action dated June 3, 2003.

The chemical structure of independent claims 105, 108 and 161 have been amended to replace the formulas objected to by the Examiner as new matter. These claims as amended recite formulas from previously added claim 11, but indicate bonds between Z groups. The three claims have also been amended to recite the terminal groups of the polymer.

Claim 106 was amended to include a period at the end of the sentence.

Claims 111, 112, 116, 124, 138, 153 and 160 were amended to correct obvious typographical errors.

Claims 109 and 112 were amended to improve antecedent basis by replacing the word "sugar" with "monosaccharide."

Several claims have been amended to replace "of" with "according to" for improved consistency of language throughout the claims.

Claims 116, 121, 123, 133, 135, 146, 148 and 155 have been amended to replace "a" with "one or more" and to make the language of the claims consistent with this change. This amendment is supported particularly in the claims as filed (e.g., claims 7, 8, 9, 20, 21, and 22).

Claims 124, 131, 138 and 144 have been amended to replace "Z" with "Z₁ or Z₂" for consistency with the formula and to improve antecedent basis.

Claims 138 has been rewritten to recite that "the termini of the polysaccharide are H and or OH dependent upon the structures of monosaccharide Z_1 and Z_2 ." This recitation is believed to better clarify the termini of the polysaccharide. The exact atom at the terminii will depend upon the structure of the monosaccharide selected to be Z_1 or Z_2 , but will always be either H or OH.

No new matter was added by any of these clarifying amendments.

Informality Objection

The informality of claim 116 pointed out by the examiner has been corrected by changing "Acomposition" to "A composition."

Rejections under 35 § USC 112

Claims 105-123 and 151-161 were rejected (under § 112, first paragraph), for allegedly containing new matter.

The structures in claims 105, 108 and 161 have been amended to remove the second and third $(R)_m$ groups. It is believed that these amendments obviate the rejection.

Applicant does not agree that the structures objected to in claims 105, 108 and 161 presented in the last amendment represent new matter. However, to expedite issuance of allowable subject matter, Applicant has replaced the structures objected to with a structure that the examiner has found to be acceptable in the allowable claims.

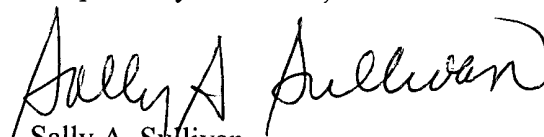
CONCLUSION

It is believed that this amendment overcomes all rejections and objections of the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested. This amendment is being submitted with a Request for Continued Prosecution and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

References known to Applicants have been listed herein. That information is cited in a spirit of forthrightness and cooperation to enable the applicants to obtain that measure of protection for the invention to which there is entitlement. No representation is made that the listed art actually qualifies as prior art under the patent statute and the listed of the references in Form 1449 is not intended as an admission that the listed art is prior art. No representation is made that the applicants know of the best art.

It is believed this submission does not require the payment of any fees, including extension fees. If this is incorrect, please deduct the appropriate fee from deposit account 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,


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